

## **INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **RE-ENTRY POLICY STUDY COMMISSION**

PLANNING DOCUMENT (THIS IS A WORKING DOCUMENT, SUBJECT TO REVISION AND UPDATE)

The Re-entry Policy Study Commission was established by Council Resolution Number 80, 2012 and later amended by Council Resolution Number 90, which expanded the membership of the Commission.

#### Mission

The mission of the Re-entry Study Commission is to increase public safety in Marion County by breaking the cycle of criminal activity by ex-offenders who are re-entering the community. This will be accomplished by examining, investigating and facilitating the implementation of policy and procedures related to the re-entry of ex-offenders with a focus on the economic and community impact of those measures.

#### Commission duties and responsibilities (defined in enacting resolution):

- To examine and investigate current policies and procedures relating to the re-entry of ex-offenders and the economic and community impact of reducing recidivism in Marion County
- To hold public hearings and take public input,
- To report to the Council findings and recommendations for improvement.

#### Commission Members (as defined in enacting resolutions)

The Commission will consist of 12 members, as follows:

1. Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair of the Council's Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee and Chair of the Commission
2. Vop Osili, Member of the Council's Metropolitan and Economic Development Committee
3. Will Gooden, Member of the minority caucus of the Council
4. Andy Fogle, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Marion County Prosecutor's Office
5. Jose Salinas, Superior Court Judge (John Alt, proxy)
6. Valerie Washington, Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety
7. Angela Smith Jones, Director of Public Policy, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
8. Mike Lloyd, A member of the Marion County Re-entry Coalition
9. Willie Jenkins, Re-entry Administrator, Office of the Mayor
10. Rhiannon Edwards, PACE
11. Robert Ohlemiller, Program Director, Marion County Sheriff's Office
12. Joyce Dabner, Coordinator, Starting Over

Ex-Offender Liaisons Two liaisons will serve as non-voting advisers to the Commission, providing guidance based on their experiences as ex-offenders and successful re-entrants.

1. Shawn Hendricks, Recycle Force
2. Melissa Benton, John H. Boner Center

#### Staff

Fred Biesecker, General Counsel ([fred.biesecker@indy.gov](mailto:fred.biesecker@indy.gov), 317.327.4232)

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#### Partners

The Commission has identified the following organizations as partners in the work to meet its mission. This list is subject to and expected to expand as additional partners are identified.

American Institute of Research	Marion County Community Corrections
Bethlehem House	Marion County Jail
Community Solutions Inc.	Marion County Probation
Craine House	Marion County Prosecutor's Office
Drug Free Marion County	Marion County Public Defender Agency
Fathers and Families	Marion County Re-entry and Drug Court
Goodwill	Marion County Re-entry Coalition
Homeless and Re-entry Helpers	Marion County Sheriff's Department
HOPE (Helping Others Prosper Economically)	Mayor's Office of Re-entry
Team	Neighborhood Christian Legal Center
Indiana Department of Correction	PACE
Indiana Department of Correction – Probation	Recycle Force
Indiana Department of Workforce Development	State of Indiana- Access to Recovery
Indianapolis-Marion County Council	Step Up, Inc.
Indy Chamber	Trusted Mentors
Indy Reads	United Way
Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs	Use What You've Got Prison Ministries
	Volunteers of America

#### General Operating Guidelines

- After its initial meeting, the Commission shall meet upon the call of the chair or a majority of its members
- Seven members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum
- Commission members may designate a proxy to participate in the Commission meetings
- Any reports of the Commission shall only be approved by the vote of seven members
- Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made
- The Commission shall meet and begin its operations as soon as practical.
- In general, the meetings will be held every two weeks in the City-County Building
- Two meetings will be held in the community, one at Genesis Plaza (28th and Keystone Avenue), hosted by PACE (Public Advocates in Community Re-entry), and the second in the offices of Recycle Force (10th and Mass), which employs ex-offenders. These meeting locations are subject to confirmation.
- General Commission Time Line
  - Meetings from November, 2012 – Early March, 2013
  - Final report by March 31, 2013
  - The timeline will be amended if the Commission needs additional time to complete its work

#### Meeting Schedule (an expanded listing is provided at the end of the document):

1. Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 5:30 pm, City-County Building, Room 260
2. Thursday, December 13, 2012, 5:00 pm, City-County Building, Room 107
3. Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 5:30 pm, City-County Building, Room 260
4. Thursday, January 17, 2013, 5:30 pm, PACE, Genesis Plaza, 2855 North Keystone Avenue, Ste, 218, Indianapolis IN 46218
5. Thursday, January 31, 2013, 5:30 pm, City-County Building, Room 260
6. Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 5:30 pm, City-County Building, Room 260
7. Thursday, February 28, 2013, 5:30 pm, Recycle Force, 1125 Brookside Ave Suite D12 (Formerly The Switzer Building in the Windsor Park neighborhood)
8. Thursday, March 14, 2013, 5:30 pm, City-County Building Room, Room 260
9. Thursday, March 21, 2013, 5:00 pm, Location to be determine

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#### Powers and Duties of the Commission (as defined in the enacting ordinance)

The Commission shall review and make recommendations on policies and procedures relating to the re-entry of ex-offenders into Marion County and the economic and community impact to Marion County of reducing recidivism, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Review current practices surrounding offender sentencing, incarceration, release, and re-integration into the county
2. Review sentencing practices/guidelines and their role in supporting or crippling successful re-integration;
3. Review costs associated with the processing, prosecution, incarceration, release, probation, and community supervision of the offender, and determine how the funds are utilized and their efficiency and effectiveness as measured by the successful re-integration of the re-entrant population;
4. Review sources of payment of these costs and how they are utilized;
5. Create community goals/targets for successful re-integration of re-entrants into the community and study the potential impact on the city's economic development;
6. Review national best practices for successful re-integration, including use of public funds utilized in the process of prosecution, sentencing, incarceration, and release of offenders;
7. Review the service provider entities which have been most successful in lowering recidivism rates and recommending means of streamlining and possibly eliminating those which have not;
8. Analyze economic cost/benefit to city/county of incorporating any new policies;
9. Review current barriers to re-entrant employment, housing, and other necessities;
10. Review best practices to encourage more private sector employers to review their hiring and screening policies, and provide more non-discriminatory hiring opportunities;
11. Review and analyze our supportive services (housing, workforce development, etc.) and ways to improve their role in successful re-integration; and
12. Establish a periodic review of the county's recidivism rate and create a method of measuring and tracking successful performance and re-integration of the re-entrants.

#### Policy and Operating Guidelines

1. Guidelines for presentations
  - a. All presenters will be asked to present from a PowerPoint presentation, generally organized in the following manner (which may be changed as appropriate for specific content):
  - b. Introduction and key concepts, including definitions and acronyms
  - c. Problem statement, with specific application to the issues, demographics and challenges of Marion County
  - d. Policy implications, including economic impact
  - e. Best practices, particularly those that are applicable to Marion County, including environment and demographics
  - f. Specific recommendations for Marion County, including changes in legal and/or practical policy. Recommendations must include factors for evaluating the outcomes and successes of implementing the policy. How will we know that the implemented recommendations are successful and effective?
  - g. Provide a follow up report, 5 pages maximum, that provides narrative for the Commission's final report and makes specific recommendations for Marion County policy.
2. Commission Operations and Policy Discussion
  - a. The Commission Chair will call for consensus and find seek to identify common ground on policies, recommendations and issues as the commission receives and processes presentations.

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- b. If the commission cannot reach consensus on particular issues, they will be placed on a pending issues list and revisited periodically with an objective to reach a conclusion.
- c. The Commission Chair will do a recap and review of subject matter and policy discussion at each meeting.
- d. Commission members are free and highly encouraged to ask questions and participate in dialogue with other Commission members, presenters and the public.
- e. To ensure the best outcomes possible, the Commission will rely upon Commission members' expertise and experience. Commission members are expected to provide input, information and clarification whenever a topic of personal interest or area of expertise arises.
- f. To ensure the greatest level of engagement among Commission members, presenters and the public will be coordinated and all participants are asked to adhere to the rules of engagement that are guided by:
  - Courtesy
  - Openness to and respect for everyone's ideas
  - Open dialogue
  - Freedom to ask questions
- g. The Commission's final report will include draft proposals for legislation, if required, to effect the Commission's policy recommendations.
- h. The Commission will hear public comments at each meeting. Testimony and comments will be subject to time limits if needed to manage the length of the meeting and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
- i. All documents and presentations to the Commission will be posted as soon as possible to the Commission web page:  
<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Council/Committees/Pages/Re-Entry-Study-Commission.aspx>

### Revised Schedule of Topics and Meetings for the Re-entry Policy Study Commission

Prior to each session, subject experts from the community would be convened to discuss the issue and prepare the content for the Commission meeting.

Session #	Date/Time	Location	Topic	Presenters/Partners
1	Tuesday, 11/20/12 5:30 pm	City-County Building, Room 260 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204	<p>Introduction and Background Purpose of the Commission – what does success look like?</p> <p>Overview of Re-entry in Marion County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Data – <b>Lena Hackett</b></li> <li>• Identify barriers to success</li> <li>• What other data would the commission still like to see? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recidivism rates</li> <li>○ Cost of recidivism</li> <li>○ Highlight unique attributes about Marion County</li> <li>○ Comparison to peer cities, other urban areas</li> <li>○ Data on ex-offenders by type of crime</li> <li>○ No data on jail recidivism. Ask Marion County Sheriff's Department if there is any available (<b>Lena Hackett</b>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Flow chart” of process for re-entry – <b>Andy Fogle, Bob Ohlemiller and Willie Jenkins</b></li> <li>• Identification of public and private partners across the continuum of services for ex-offenders (United Way, private funders, etc.)</li> <li>• What are <u>key areas</u> to work on/address for a person's successful re-entry</li> <li>• Causes of recidivism</li> <li>• Definition of re-entry</li> <li>• Scope of the work – Will be based on the risk assessment and geared toward adult ex-offenders</li> <li>• Definition of recidivism</li> </ul>	Marion County Reentry Coalition (MCRC) members
2	Thursday, 12/13/12 5:00 pm	City-County Building, Room 107 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204	<p>Economic impact of recidivism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the economic impact to city and state of the current practices? – cost/benefit analysis?</li> <li>• How is success measured in other communities?</li> <li>• What are the before/after numbers in other communities which have successfully addressed this issue?</li> <li>• What are the policy implications?</li> <li>• What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	Roger Jarjoura

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3	1/8/13 5:30 pm	City-County Building, Room 260 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204	Uses of time during incarceration, including DOC, Marion County Jail, Jail 2 (Medium Security operated by CCA), and Community Corrections (Duval Center, Volunteers of America Brandon Hall, Theodora House – Women’s Work Release) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What practices are in place to add knowledge/ skills during time of incarceration?</li> <li>What are the costs associated with this?</li> <li>What are the policy implications for city and state?</li> <li>What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	Mike Lloyd, Indiana Department of Correction (INDOC); Bob Ohlemiller, Marion County Jail; Lucia Sheehan, Indy Reads; John Dieter, Marion County Community Corrections –; Mary Leffler, Theodora House; Roger Jarjoura, American Institutes for Research
4	1/17/13 5:30 pm	PACE (Public Advocates in Community Re-entry) Genesis Plaza 2855 North Keystone Avenue Suite 110 Indianapolis, IN 46218  Meeting will be held in the Conference Room – Follow Posted Signs	Wrap Around Services (Case Management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What happens within the system to connect people to services/supports when they leave incarceration?</li> <li>What is transitional process within DOC?</li> <li>Mentoring and other support services (need to discuss efficacy)</li> <li>Rapid Response Program</li> <li>What resources are available?</li> <li>What are the effective best practices from other communities?</li> <li>What is currently considered the "transitional processes" for those leaving IDOC and when does that process begin? Is it uniform for men, women, across the State, etc.</li> <li>What are the policy implications?</li> <li>What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	Re-entry Court; Community Centers; Step-Up; PACE; Christine Kerl, Marion County Probation
5	1/31/13 5:30 pm	City-County Building, Room 260 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204	Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the barriers to accessing services?</li> <li>What resources are available?</li> <li>What are the effective best practices from other communities?</li> <li>a) Identify current medical and Rx assistance service providers/options, b) What is the current situation/opportunities for Veteran's who are incarcerated</li> </ul>	Community mental health centers (Midtown, Gallahue, Adult and Child); Re-entry/Drug Court; Mental Health America; Drug Free Marion County; Community-based providers, Community Health Centers

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>or have been released and have criminal histories?</li> <li>What are the policy implications?</li> <li>What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	
6	2/6/2013 5:30 pm	City-County Building, Room 260 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204	Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the barriers to accessing housing?</li> <li>What resources are available?</li> <li>What are effective best practices from other communities?</li> <li>a) Which local communities might consider transitional housing units in their neighborhoods? b) What are the legal boundaries currently regarding opportunities for housing and persons with felony convictions?</li> <li>What are the policy implications?</li> <li>What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	Indianapolis Housing Authority; DMD; Community-based housing providers
7	2/28/13 5:30 pm	Recycle Force 1125 Brookside Ave., Suite D12 Indianapolis, IN 46202	Employment (off-site meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the barriers to accessing employment?</li> <li>What resources are available?</li> <li>What are the effective best practices from other communities?</li> <li>a) What State and/or Federal incentives currently exist for employers to hire individuals with criminal histories, b) In lieu of immediate employment, what educational (vocational or otherwise) training programs exist to better prepare and job ready someone with a criminal history? c) For what types of grants (if any) does a person with a felony conviction qualify and apply for?</li> <li>What are the policy implications?</li> <li>What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	Employ Indy; Chamber of Commerce; Community-based employment providers; Ivy Tech/IUPUI

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Session #	Date/Time	Location	Topic	Presenters/Partners
8	3/14/13 5:30 pm	City-County Building, Room 260 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204	<p>Alternative sentencing and other non-conventional practices (Off-site meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What results have been achieved in other communities which focus on addressing the issues most related to re-arrests and recidivism?</li> <li>• What guidelines are utilized in sentencing?</li> <li>• What are the policy implications?</li> <li>• What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> <li>• Problem Solving Courts – Certified by Indiana Judicial Center</li> </ul> <p>Alternative methods to funding re-entry and wrap-around services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the roles of Social Impact Bonds and Human Capital Performance Bonds?</li> <li>• What are the policy implications?</li> <li>• What strategies do we want to pursue?</li> </ul>	<p>Marion County Prosecutor's Office; Marion Superior Court</p> <p>Dep. Mayor of Econ. Development; Bond Bank Employ Indy</p>
9	3/21/13 5 – 9 pm	To Be Determined	Facilitated Working Session to identify and set priorities of policy recommendations and provisions of the Commission's final report.	Commissioners and Facilitator